IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add Claims 23-34 as follows:

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Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Added) Picture encoding method for generating a bit stream, the bit stream being compatible with MPEG 1 moving picture video standard and comprising an extension byte in at least a header of a specified layer of the bit stream, the extension byte being extension data added when a header includes more control data than is prescribed for a header according to the MPEG 1 standard, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an extension byte of an anterior header of said specified layer;

comparing an extension byte of a current header of said specified layer to the extension byte of said anterior header; and

transmitting, when the extension byte of said current header is different from the extension byte of said anterior header, the extension byte of said current header and an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current header, and not transmitting, when the extension byte of said current header is the same as the extension byte of said anterior header, the extension byte of said current header and an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current header.

16. (Previously Added) Picture encoding method according to claim 15, wherein said specified layer is a picture layer.

17. (Previously Added) Picture decoding method for decoding a bit stream, the bit stream

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being compatible with MPEG 1 moving picture video standard and comprising an extension byte

in at least a header of a specified layer of the bit stream, the extension byte being extension data

added when a header includes more control data than is prescribed for a header according to the

MPEG 1 standard, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an extension byte of an anterior header of said specified layer; and

decoding said bit stream, wherein data related with a current header of said specified layer

is decoded using the extension byte of said anterior header when said current header does not

include an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current

header.

18. (Previously Added) Picture decoding method according to claim 17, wherein said

specified layer is a picture layer.

19. (Previously Added) Picture encoding apparatus for generating a bit stream, the bit

being compatible with MPEG 1 moving picture video standard and comprising an extension byte

in at least a header of a specified layer of the bit stream, the extension byte being extension data

added when a header includes more control data than is prescribed for a header according to the

MPEG 1 standard, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing an extension byte of an anterior header of said specified layer;

means for comparing an extension byte of a current header of said specified layer to the

extension byte of said anterior header; and

means for transmitting, when the extension byte of said current header is different from

the extension byte of said anterior header, the extension byte of said current header and an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current header, and not transmitting, when the extension byte of said current header is the same as the extension byte of said anterior header, the extension byte of said current header and an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current header.

20. (Previously Added) Picture encoding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said specified layer is a picture layer.

21. (Previously Added) Picture decoding apparatus for decoding a bit stream, the bit stream being compatible with MPEG 1 moving picture/video standard and comprising an extension byte in at least a header of a specified layer of the bit stream, the extension byte being extension data added when a header includes more control data than is prescribed for a header according to the MPEG 1 standard, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing an extension byte of an anterior header of said specified layer; and

means for decoding said bit stream, wherein data related with a current header of said specified layer is decoded using the extension byte of said anterior header when said current header does not include an extension start code indicating the beginning of the extension byte of said current header.

22. (Previously Added) Picture decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said specified layer is a picture layer.

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23. (New) Picture encoding method according to claim 15, wherein said extension start code includes an extension start code identifier.

24. (New) Picture encoding method according to claim 23, wherein said extension start code identifier is a 4-bit code.

25. (New) Picture encoding method according to claim 23, wherein said extension start code identifier is encoded to identify the type of the control data.

26. (New) Picture decoding method according to claim 17, wherein said extension start code includes an extension start code identifier.

27. (New) Picture decoding method according to claim 26, wherein said extension start code identifier is a 4-bit code.

28. (New) Picture decoding method according to claim 26, wherein said extension start code identifier is encoded to identify the type of the control data.

29. (New) Picture encoding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said extension start code includes an extension start code identifier.

30. (New) Picture encoding apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said extension start code identifier is a 4-bit code.

31. (New) Picture encoding apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said extension start code identifier is encoded to identify the type of the control data.

32. (New) Picture decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said extension start code includes an extension start code identifier.

33. (New) Picture decoding apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said extension start code identifier is a 4-bit code.

34. (New) Picture decoding apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said extension start code identifier is encoded to identify the type of the control data.